

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-7 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended. Claim 8 is cancelled. No new matter is presented. In view of the Examiner's comments, the above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Okazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,043) in view of Yamamoto (Japanese Patent 2002-216464). The Examiner takes the position that the combination of Okazaki and Yamamoto teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 1 and 3-7. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 is amended recite a housing enclosing the microphone, the recording unit , and the plug connection such that the recording unit and the plug connection is not visible. It is submitted that the combination Okazaki and Yamamoto fails to teach at least the amended feature recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Okazaki discloses a method of controlling a communication terminal and a communication terminal that communicates with a base station. The communication terminal is provided with different functions from a communication function and the execution of the different functions is limited based on a registration process including receiving and registering controlling data transmitted by the base station.

Yamamoto discloses a detachable audio input connector with an input terminal connected to a case, that is connected to an audio output connector having output terminals attached to a microphone. The recorder records the audio signal input to the audio input terminal.

It is submitted that the combination of the cited references fail to teach the features recited in claim 1. Specifically, the cited references fail to teach or suggest a housing enclosing the microphone, the recording unit , and the plug connection such that the recording unit and the plug connection is not visible. The Okazaki reference clearly does not disclose that the microphone unit and the recording unit are connected via a plug connection such that the recording unit and the microphone are mechanically rigidly connected. In addition, Okazaki does not teach or suggest a housing that surrounds the microphone, the recording unit and the plug connection.

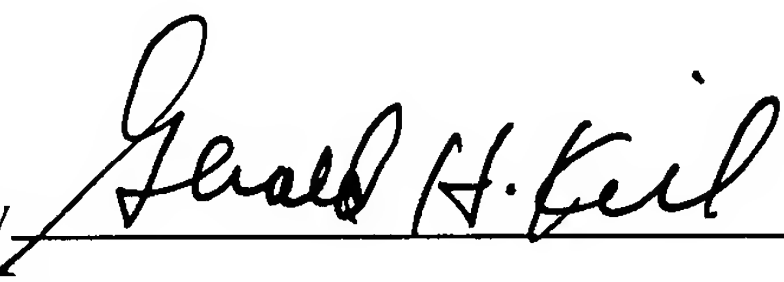
Yamamoto discloses a microphone and a recording unit, which are coupled together via a plug connection. However, Yamamoto does not teach or suggest a housing that encloses the recording unit, the plug connection and the microphone such that the recording unit and the plug connection are not visible. In Figures 1 and 2 of Yamamoto, the recording unit is clearly visible, therefore the case element disclosed in Yamamoto is not the same as the housing of the claimed invention.

In view of these distinctions, it is submitted that the cited references do not teach or suggest all the features recited in claim 1. Specifically, the cited references either alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest a housing that encloses the recording unit, the plug connection and the microphone such that the recording unit and the plug connection are not visible. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 3-7 are dependent upon claim 1. It is submitted that claims 3-7 recite patentable subject matter for at least the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit claims 1 and 3-7 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references. Thus, for the reasons presented above, claims 1 and 3-7 are believed by Applicant to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Dated: August 21, 2007

By 
Gerald H. Kiel
Reg. No. 25,116

Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
29th Floor
New York, NY 10022-7650
(212) 521-5400
Attorney for Applicants



abwishko